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COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Current U.S. Policy in RVN Seen as Best Alternative

U.S. officials have stated that alternate courses of action open in Vietnam are not as promising as the current military policy now being followed.

Alternatives were grouped into three categories; (1) greater conventional power against North Vietnam; (2) reduction of military pressure; or (3) maintain the status quo.

Intensified action against the North would be contrary to limited war aims and very limited political objectives we seek, they said.

Should the U. S. reduce pressure, the officials said this would clearly weaken the basis for negotiation. They said the current pressure has not brought Hanoi to the negotiation table and it is unlikely less pressure would have this effect.

If the U. S. stays at the present level, adopting the enclave strategy as some suggest, this would give initiative to Hanoi. They could strengthen their military position at our expense, the officials said.

They said the current, gradual buildup, proving to Hanoi they cannot win a military victory in the South, is better than any of the alternatives.

Navy Secretary Underscores Challenge of Ocean Exploration

Navy Secretary Paul H. Nitze has restated that ocean exploration and exploitation offers a challenge as great as that posed by current exploration of outer space.

He said this will ultimately require a national effort and expenditure on a comparable scale.

Citing past undersea programs and achievements as "dramatic," he said Navy will require improved capabilities in its undersea strategic forces, antisubmarine warfare forces, and undersea search and recovery.

These improvements, he said, depend largely on the national ability to discover and exploit new ocean science knowledge, and success in developing new and relevant ocean technology.

Secretary Nitze said "we must make certain" the United States, through both public and private enterprise, leads the world in working toward understanding and controlling the ocean depths.

PLAQUE PRESENTATION—Gen. Harold K. Johnson, Army chief of staff (right), receives a "Follow Me" plaque from Maj. Gen. Robert H. York, Ft. Benning, CG. Gen. Johnson delivered the graduation address to the Infantry Officer Career Course classes at Ft. Benning.

U.S. Medics Give Off-Duty Assistance to Vietnamese

Practically all U.S. military medical aid personnel in RVN are assisting South Vietnamese during off-duty time in a Medical Civil Aid Program.

Capt. (Dr.) Frank W. Berry, USAF, recently returned from a tour in RVN and reported such aid has had an impact on raising the basic hygiene standards of the Vietnamese.

While in RVN he made many trips into Viet Cong territory, along with other U.S. medical personnel, to care for inmates at a leper colony. He also held "first-come first-served" clinics in villages near Bien Hoa where he was assigned.

Savings Bond Sales Gain For 3rd Consecutive Month

The sale of Series E Savings Bonds during May reached the highest for that month since 1945, according to the Treasury Department.

At the same time Treasury announced that combined sales of E and H Bonds were the highest for May since 1956 and marked important gains for the third consecutive month of this year.

Washington Memos

SOUTH KOREA'S NATIONAL Defense Minister Kim Sung Eun scheduled for U.S. visit beginning June 18. Minister Kim will meet with Secretary of Defense McNamara and other military and government officials to exchange views on Korean defense and other Far East matters. Following visits to various U.S. defense installations, Minister Kim returns home after stop in Hawaii to confer with Admiral U. S. G. Sharp Jr., Commander-in-Chief, Pacific.

ELEMENTS OF ARMY'S 1st Logistical Command, U.S. Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force are distributing approximately 10 tons of medical supplies to villagers throughout the RVN daily. Working through U.S. medical Civic Action Program, medical shipments, including surgical and midwife kits, immunization materials and general supplies, are distributed by air to village doctors and chiefs.

RECENT BOMBING RAID indicates USS Enterprise attack pilots hit important ammunition transshipment point at Trung Nghia military supply area, 18 miles southeast of Vinh. Area is described as major North Vietnamese armament assembly point. Pilots noted 25-50 flash fires resulting from bomb explosions.

SMALLER-WIDTH TIES to replace present ones have received Army approval. QM sales stores will have thinner black ties sometime this year. Larger-width tie may be worn until no longer serviceable. Knit tie may also be worn on optional basis.

GEN. HUNTER HARRIS, commander of Pacific Air Forces, and Maj. Gen. James W. Wilson, commander of 13th Air Force, expressed high praise for work of Air Force Logistics Command personnel who aided build-up of air strength in Southeast Asia. Praise was contained in letters to AFLC's commander, Gen. Kenneth B. Hobson.

FIRST AIR FORCE pilot to log 1,000 hours in F-4C Phantom is Maj. Saul Waxman, instructor pilot for USAF Fighter Weapons School, Nellis AFB, Nev.

NEW 17-MINUTE training film for orienting troops going overseas has been prepared by Army's Chief of Information office. The 16mm film covers overseas duty requirements and Code of Conduct. It will be available at end of June through Audio-Visual Service Centers under code AIF-16 (DA Pamphlet 108-9).

DEEPSTAR, NEW UNDERSEA research vehicle, began test dives June 6 off Southern Calif. coast under supervision of U.S. Navy Electronics Laboratory, San Diego. Deepstar carries pilot and two scientists to depths of 4,000 feet for six hours at cruising-observing speed of one knot. Viewing capabilities include two large plexiglas ports, while precise control gives hovering ability and multi-directional movements in undersea canyons and trenches.

DOD CASUALTY FIGURES reveal that 3,553 U. S. service personnel lost their lives through hostile actions in RVN from Jan. 1, 1961 thru May 28, 1966. Additionally, 19,605 were wounded. Nonhostile actions claimed the lives of 804.

REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED STATES, United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia held eighth annual Technical Cooperation Program meeting at Pentagon June 3. TCP mission is furtherance of defense research and development among the four countries.

AN AIR FORCE promotion board is considering about 494 warrant officers for upgrading to temporary grade of CWO, W-4 and W-3. "Best Qualified" method will be used to select for CWO, W-4 and "Fully Qualified" for W-3. Quota is based on insignia changes in FY67. Approximately 400 changes may be made including 13 warrant officers who will receive insignia changes as result of permanent promotion.

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION awarded to Headquarters Naval Support Activity, Saigon, May 26, for providing administrative and logistic support for USMAC and other allied forces in Vietnam for past four years. Activity was disestablished May 17 when Army took over its functions.

ABOUT 800 AIR Force Academy Cadets, Class of 1969, are on first leg of field trip that includes visits to stateside Air Force and Army installations. Agenda includes flights on operational combat-type missions, briefing on research and development, and witnessing of weapons and tactics demonstrations at Army's Infantry Training Center, Ft. Benning, Ga.

SINGING HOOSIERS OF Indiana University will tour Europe for eight weeks starting June 15. Show features "The Overland Singers," a folk singing duo, and "The Beautiques," girl's jazz trio. Under USO and DOD auspices, group has traveled thousands of miles entertaining service personnel in Europe, Far East, and Caribbean.

U.S. ARMS CONTROL and Disarmament Agency has announced publication of an historical review of atomic test ban negotiations during 1962-1965 titled, "Review of International Negotiations on the Cessation of Nuclear Weapon Tests, September 1962-September 1965," ACDA Publication 32. New publication may be purchased from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for forty cents.

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE AT Scott AFB, Ill., developed plan which will save government estimated $160,700 yearly. William C. Barnes planned a change in operation and management for weather facsimile equipment at lower annual cost to Air Force. Action won him Air Force Cost Reduction Certificate of Achievement.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Background for Commanders

South Vietnam Factions All Oppose Communist Aggression*

Our objective in the Far East is simple, at least to state. There, as throughout the world, we wish to see independent nations developing as they see fit in accordance with their own traditions.

Most on our minds at this moment is the political struggle within South Vietnam. We can get some perspective on this struggle by noting the different ways in which power has changed hands in South Vietnam during the last two and one half years. The changes range from the very crude physical coup of General Khanh to the virtual consensus that produced the Huong government, and to the civilian government of Dr. Quat which found itself in such difficulty that it eventually asked the military to take over. That request, and not any coup, was the origin of the Ky government.

Prime Minister Ky on January 15 of this year announced a timetable that would have placed a new constitution before the voters in 1966 and pledged that elections for the legislature would be held during 1967.

With that announcement, serious politics began in South Vietnam. Tri Quang with his supporters whose power base is largely in central Vietnam and who, while having ties to other Buddhist groups, are very far from being the Buddhists, prepared to take action. Their decision was made before Honolulu and before the dismissal of General Thi. General Thi's dismissal did play a part because it added another element of discontent which Tri Quant and his followers skillfully exploited. Strident opposition groups took to the streets calling for elections and a constitution in the near future.

A natural question is the degree to which Tri Quang and his struggle movement is anti-American or represents a desire to discontinue the war or ask us to leave. I do not think that there is any likelihood of a freely elected legislature asking us to leave. I base that comment on a number of factors.

One of the most significant facts is that over the long period of time before and after the overthrow of Diem and up to and including the current struggle, despite all their quarrels and difficulties, which are after all the birth pangs of a nation, there has never been a single political leader of any consequence in South Vietnam who has ever gone over to the Viet Cong. So far as we can tell although there has been some Communist participation in the struggle movement, it has not been significant.

Recently a prominent American student leader, a man who had strong reservations about our policy in Vietnam, went to Vietnam and traveled throughout the country to obtain an insight into Vietnamese student opinion. He spoke with students at Hue, the center of Buddhist dissidence and elsewhere. He concluded that nine out of ten of the Vietnamese students want no part whatsoever of any compromise arrangement that would admit the Viet Cong to the government of South Vietnam.

There are many other bits and pieces which fit together into an overall picture. The Vietnamese are a highly nationalistic people. There are frictions as there must be when there is a foreign presence as large as ours is. But what I think is striking is that, despite these frictions, no observer that I know of has detected any deep sentiment among the Vietnamese for asking us to leave before we finish the job. As Tri Quang himself has said, "It is agreed by all that the struggle against Communism here must be made with the assistance of the Americans."

The Viet Cong do not anticipate the election of a national assembly which will ask us to leave. For this reason, no doubt, they will do what they can to interfere with the elections.

So let us keep the present political difficulties in perspective. They are serious, and it is obvious that the South Vietnamese themselves must develop unity of action as well as purpose, and attain a degree of effectiveness in their government that will enable them to cope with the situation, particularly with such presently serious problems as inflation and with the necessarily slow and grinding process of restoring order in the countryside as the military situation improves. The necessary unity and effectiveness have been significantly impaired by the political crises of the last two months. Those political crises must be resolved, and we are using every bit of our influence to that end at this moment.

So I think we should go on and must go on. I think we are making great progress on the military side. Although there are grave dangers on the political side, there also exist the possibility of lasting gains.

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* *Condensed from an address by Hon. William P. Bundy, Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs.*

Munitions Use, Aircraft Losses Run Below Estimates in Vietnam

Consumption of ground munitions is running slightly less than estimated in RVN with air munitions about as estimated, U. S. officials have revealed.

Officials cited other figures showing helicopter losses are somewhere between 15-20 percent below estimate, and aircraft losses are below estimate.

Navy League Honors Attack Squadron CO

Members of Attack Squadron 115 took time from combat duties to nominate their commanding officer for Navy League's John Paul Jones Award, citing him for inspiring leadership.

The officer, Cdr. Murray C. Cook, was presented the award at Navy League's national convention in Santa Monica, Calif. It is awarded for outstanding contribution to Navy's traditional high standards of leadership.

Cdm. Cook was also presented Legion of Merit at Pentagon for meritorious service supporting combat operations in Southeast Asia while embarked as squadron commander in the USS Kitty Hawk.

AF Reserves Ferry C-119Gs to Taiwan

U.S. Air Force Reserve crews have completed a history-making flight across the Pacific to deliver C-119G Flying Boxcars to the Chinese Air Force on Taiwan.

It was the first time air reserve crews had undertaken such a large cross-ocean ferry mission in C-119s, officials said.

Turnover of the cargo planes to the Chinese Air Force was under provisions of U.S. Military Assistance Program.

Personnel Actions

Lt. Gen. Charles W. G. Rich, USA, new Deputy CG, Eighth U.S. Army, Korea, reassigned as Chief, Office of Reserve Components, U.S. Army, replacing **Lt. Gen. John L. Throckmorton, USA. Lt. Gen. David Wade, USAF,** now Commander, Second Air Force, will become Commander, Eighth Air Force, Aug. 1, replacing **Lt. Gen. Horace M. Wade, USAF,** who will become deputy chief of staff, personnel, Hdqtrs. USAF.

GRADUATION SPEAKER—Secretary of the Air Force Harold Brown leaves the flight line at Maxwell AFB with Lt. Gen. John W. Carpenter, Air University commander. Dr. Brown was principal speaker at Air War College graduation ceremonies.

Army Announces Quotas For June EM Promotions

Army has announced another temporary enlisted promotion quota with June authorizations exceeding 91,000.

Breakdown by grade is E-9, 257; E-8, 1,460; E-7, 4,781; E-6, 8,364; E-5, 14,513; and E-4, 61,820.

Most significant gains over last month are in E-7 and E-6 grades. The E-7 authorization increased by 1,196 and E-6 rose 1,046.

Army Expands OCS Program

Three new officer candidate schools will be opened by the Army in FY 67 plus increased classes at existing schools.

The new schools at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md.; Ft. Lee, Va.; and Ft. Eustis, Va., will train ordnance, quartermaster and transportation officer candidates, respectively.

Officials said expanded OCS classes will be continued as long as necessary to meet the additional requirements of the Army for junior officers.

Graduates of OCS are commissioned second lieutenants in the U.S. Army Reserve. OCS classes last approximately 23 weeks.

Navy's 'Project Tiger Tom' Speeds Spare Parts to RVN

The Navy is expediting requests for spare parts destined for Vietnam by using short cuts in "Project Tiger Tom."

The Aviation Supply Office, Philadelphia, responsible for spare part support of Navy and Marine Corps aircraft, works around the clock, seven days a week to fill requests.

About 99 percent of items requested arrive at the Aircraft Maintenance Office, Oakland, Calif., for shipment to Vietnam within 24 hours. Items which have to be purchased are ready within 48 hours for airlift to Vietnam the next day.

Four Airmen Complete 15-Day Test in Space Cabin Simulator

Four volunteer airmen at the Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks AFB, Tex., have completed a 15-day test to evaluate effects of increased carbon dioxide on human systems in a ground-based space cabin simulator.

The volunteers began the test under normal conditions while being put on a special powdered food diet, used to keep their systems operating at the same level throughout the test.

After five days the airmen were put into an atmosphere containing three percent carbon dioxide, almost 100 times normal content. After another five days, the volunteers were returned to normal conditions where they spent five days in post-experiment control.

Army Warrant Officer Gets Combat Reserve Commission

First to receive Army commission under new combat program is WO Albert R. Bresnik, 227th Assault Helicopter Bn., 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

Policy now provides Army Reserve commission with concurrent call to active duty for those demonstrating officer potential under combat conditions.

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